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Message Text

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53
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SCCT-01 /067 W
---------- 125934
R 030945Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6515
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, EI, UK (NI)
SUBJECT: GOI WORRIED ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

1. JOHN MCCOLGAN, FONOFF ANGLO-IRISH DIVISION, ASKED EMBOFF FOR INFORMATION ON CONGRESSIONAL PLANS TO HOLD HEARINGS ON IRISH PROBLEM. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY DATE SET FOR HEARINGS. MCCOLGAN ASKED TO BE INFORMED IF ANY SPECIFIC PLANS ARE ANNOUNCED.

2. MCCOLGAN THEN SAID GOI HOPED USG HAD TAKEN NOTE OF POINT RAISED BY FONMIN FITZGERALD DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO MCCOLGAN, FITZGERALD HAD MADE HIS COMMENT IN PRESENCE OF BOTH SECRETARY AND CONGRESSMEN. FITZGERALD HAD EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WITNESSES INVITED TO ANY CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS WOULD BE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF IRISH PROPLE AND NOT REPRESENTATIVES OF A SMALL GROUP OF TERRORISTS (SINN FEIN/IRA).

3. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT MCCOLGAN REMINDER WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON. EMBOFF NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IRISH ARE CERTAINLY AWARE THAT CONGRESS IS NOT BOUND BY ADVICE OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN SUCH MATTERS. EMBOFF ALSO SAID THAT, TO HIS RECOLLECTION, CONGRESS NORMALLY DREW MANY OF ITS FOREIGN WITNESSES FROM PERSONS WHO WERE
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NOT ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

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4. MCCOLGAN SAID FITZGERALD HAD NOT MEANT TO SUGGEST THAT NOT ONLY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD TESTIFY. IRISH DO STRONGLY FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT WITNESSES SHOULD BE CHOSEN FROM MEN WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT THEY REALLY REPRESENT MASS OF IRISH VOTERS, RATHER THAN FROM TERRORISTS WHOM VOTERS HAVE CLEARLY REJECTED AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. THE NORTHERN IRELAND SDLP (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOR PARTY), FOR EXAMPLE, IS SUPPORTED BY VIRTUALLY ALL OF NI CATHOLIC COMMUNITY, AND IT INCLUDES PEOPLE LIKE JOHN HUME WHO WOULD BE VERY CREDIBLE AND EFFECTIVE WITNESS AT ANY CONGRESSIONAL HEARING. POINT GOI WANTS TO MAKE IS THAT WITNESSES SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM THIS KIND OF LEGITIMATE BODY, NOT FROM TERRORISTS.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT DEPARTMENT CANNOT NECESSARILY INFLUENCE CONGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT. AT SAME TIME, GOI DOES HAVE VALID POINT. FOR US CONGRESS TO HOLD HEARINGS ON IRISH PROBLEM AND INVITE SINN FEIN/IRA WITNESSES WOULD CAUSE STRONG REACTION IN DUBLIN. THE SITUATION WOULD BE COMPARABLE TO WHAT COULD BE EXPECTED IN WASHINGTON IF IRISH PARLIAMENT HELD HEARINGS ON AMERICAN LAW-AND-ORDER PROBLEMS AND FEATURED MAFIA WITNESSES. WE HOPE THAT SOMETHING CAN BE DONE TO AVOID THIS KIND OF AFFRONT TO A FRIENDLY, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.
MOORE

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